

1839

1939

Centennial

Orr Lodge No. 104

Chartered January 1, 1839

Washington, North Carolina



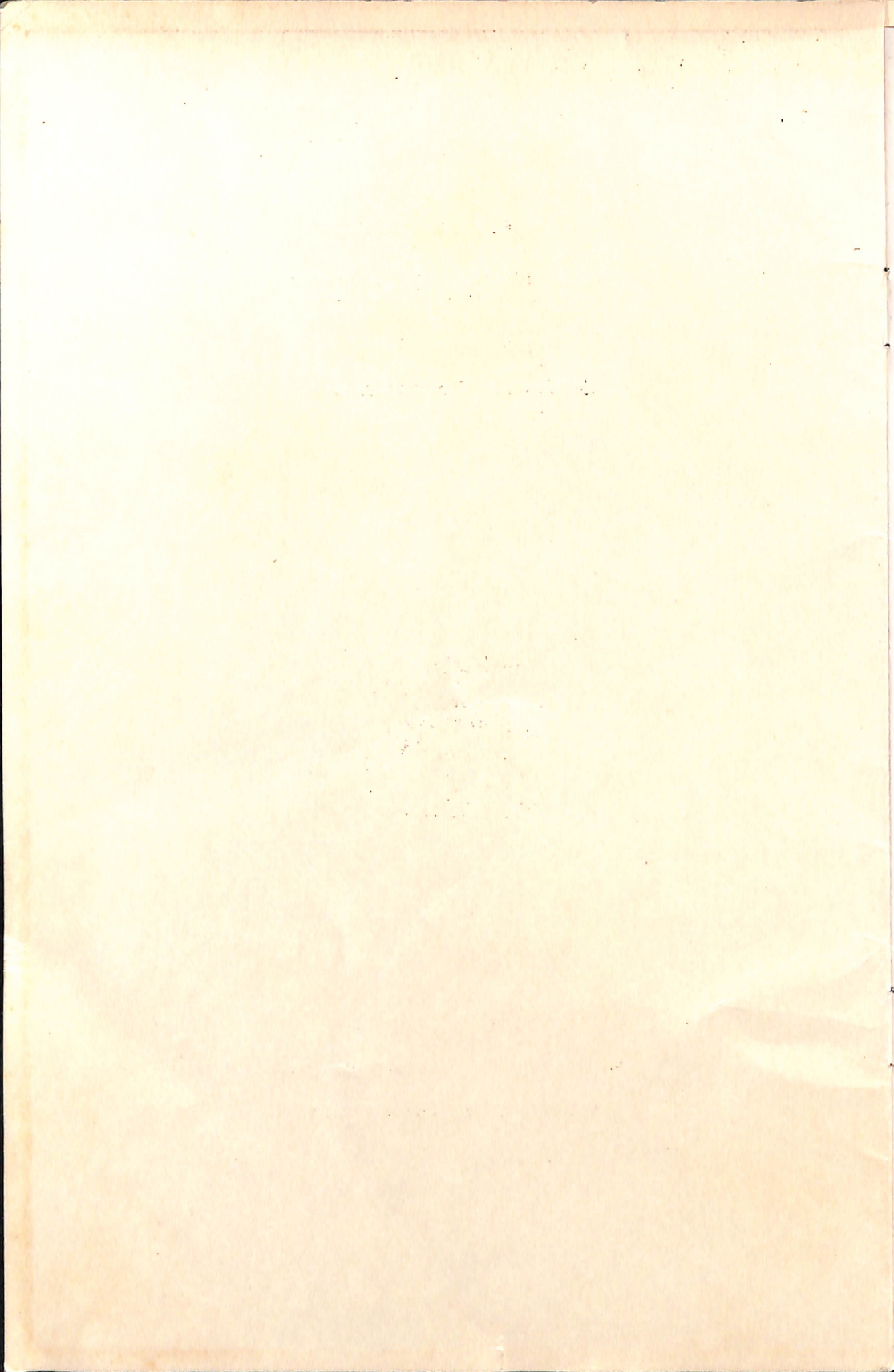
SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

Beginning of Masonry in Washington

WASHINGTON LODGE NO. 15

1788

1888



CENTENNIAL DINNER

Saint Peter's Parish House

Jan. 17, 1939

6:30 P. M.

MENU

Oyster Cocktail

Roast Turkey and Dressing

Giblet Gravy

Cranberry Sauce

Green Lima Beans

Buttered Carrots

Celery

Ice Cream

Cake

Coffee

Officers

No. 104 A. F. & A. M.

1939

Charles Otis Jordan	Master
Leonidas B. Wynne	Sr. Warden
Ray E. Phillips	Jr. Warden
Joseph F. Bridgers	Treas.
Millard F. McKeel, Jr.	Secy.
James T. McKeel	Sr. Deacon
J. Sayles Buffum	Jr. Deacon
Cecil E. Petway	Sr. Steward
Henry B. Carawan	Jr. Steward
Edgar P. Martin	Tyler

Past Masters of other Lodges now Members

Orr Lodge No. 104

George W. Freeman	Ross A. Tune
Carney C. Duke	

PROGRAM

Regular Communication 7:30 P. M.

Reception	-----	Distinguished Vistors
Reception	-----	M. W., Harry T. Patterson, Grand Master
Recognition	-----	M. W., Master of Lodges in 3rd District
Address	-----	M. W., Edgar W. Timberlake, Past Grand Master
Address	--	----- M. W., Harry T. Patterson, Grand Master

PAST MASTERS

Orr Lodge No. 104 A. F. & A. M.

*Lewis B. Myers	1838
*Darden H. McCabe	1839
*Thos. Shaw	1840
*John S. Hawks	1841-42-46-47-48-49-50-52-53
*Wm. L. Kennedy	1843
*Bannister Midgett	1844-45
*Henry F. Hancock	1851-54
*Wm. J. Ellison	1855-56
*Wm. A. Potts	1857-58-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-75-81
*Edwin Geer	1859
*F. J. Gardner	1860
*Wm. A. Harris	1869
*Edmund S. Hoyt	1870-71-72-73-74-79-80-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-95-96
*Seth Bridgman	1876-77-97-98-02
*John G. Bragaw	1878
*Nathaniel Harding	1891-92
*Walter E. Jones	1893-94
George A. Heptenstall	1899
George J. Baker	1900-01-07-08-10-11
*James H. Harris	1903-04-05-06-09-18-28
*W. Scott Frizzle	1912
Samuel C. Carty	1913-14
*William B. Singleton	1915
*Otis M. Winfield	1916
C. M. Campbell, Jr.	1917
Edgar P. Martin	1919
Robert L. Jones	1920
Edmund H. Harding	1921
I. V. Turner	1922
Millard F. McKeel, Jr.	1923-24
Daniel T. Smith	1925
Harry H. McLean	1926
*John P. Harris	1927
Guy C. Harding	1929-30
George W. Farmer	1931-32
Fenner T. Paul	1933-34
John S. Benner	1935
James F. Duke	1936
John A. Mayo	1937
Samuel C. Pegram	1938

*Deceased

1788	WASHINGTON LODGE NUMBER 15	1837
1837	ORR LODGE NUMBER 104	1939

The sesqui-centennial of the beginning of Washington Lodge number 15 was November 17, 1938; and the centennial of the charter date of Orr Lodge No. 104 was January 1, 1939.

The first meeting of Washington Lodge No. 15 was held on November 17, 1788. The following being members at that time:

Jonathan Loomis

Silas W. Arnett

James Horten

Charles Crawford

Samuel Willis

George Cameron

Charles Nuttle

At a Past Master's lodge held on Monday, December 22, 1788 the minutes read, "there were present: R. W. Silas W. Arnett, R. W. Jonathan Loomis, R. W. William Stewart. Brother Silas W. Arnett, Jr. Warden of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, proceeded to install the R. W. Jonathan Loomis, Master of Washington Lodge."

The first work of the Lodge was on January 15, 1789, when Dr. John C. Osborn, Ebenezer Hopkins, and L. William Farris was initiated.

Grand Lodge officially issued numbers to the several lodges on June 25, 1791; Washington Lodge receiving No. 15.

The records of Grand Lodge show that Washington Lodge failed to make proper return from 1791 until 1803, when a new charter was issued with the old number. It was during this period of apparent inactivity that a deed was recorded in the records of Beaufort County, dated March 6, 1794, from David Shoemaker, a member of Washington Lodge, "to the Master, Wardens, and members of Washington Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons No. 15." This deed being for lot number 48, which is the same property now owned by Orr Lodge No. 104. The consideration £30.

The records of Beaufort county show that on August 31, 1812 Slade Pearce, Sheriff of the county, executed

a deed to the lodge for the previous year's taxes, 25c, but reserved one square-foot in the north east corner of the lot. This deed making reference to the "lot where the Masonic Hall now stands." The western half of the building therefore must have been constructed some time between 1794 and 1812. The eastern half of the building being added later. The bell, which is suspended from the west wall of the building, was placed there in 1849 having been removed from a cupola on top of the building.

During the early period the Master, Treasurer, and Tyler only were elected, the Master appointing all the other officers.

The first fifty years of Masonry in Washington seem to have been hectic times. Probably the best period being from about 1801 to 1830. Grand Lodge was rather lenient, remitting dues of the lodge several times, the last remission being authorized in 1834. At the Communication of Grand Lodge in 1836 Washington Lodge was again delinquent, with some thirty other lodges in the state, and failed to comply with resolutions of Grand Lodge requiring Lodges to be represented etc. At Grand Lodge meeting on December 29, 1837 the charter of the lodge was surrendered or revoked as were a number of other lodges. At the same communication Grand Lodge granted a dispensation for opening a lodge in Washington.

Orr Lodge was named for William Orr, who was Master of Washington Lodge No. 15 in 1810 and several years following. The first meeting of Orr Lodge was held in April 1838. The first actual date in the minutes being June 6, 1838, and as all of the meetings following this date were on the first Tuesday this would indicate that the first meeting was held on April 3, that being the first Tuesday. At this first meeting Brother John S. Hawks installed:

Lewis B. Myers, Master	Thomas Shaw, Secy
D. H. McCabe, Sr. W.	Caleb E. Raeney, Sr. D.
John W. Williams, Jr. W.	Joseph Scranton, Jr. D.
F. B. Satterthwaite, Tr.	George Hobbs, Tyler
William T. Pratt	

Brother Satterthwaite being the only absent one was installed by proxy. A letter recorded in the min-

utes of June 1838 from William T. Bain, Grand Secretary, gives the following as being charter members:

Z. W. Barrow	Robert Hardison
F. B. Satterthwaite	Henry A. Ellison
John W. Williams	D. H. Latham
William T. Pratt	James Latham
Caleb E. Reaney	John S. Hawks
Joseph Scranton	J. O'K. Williams
D. H. McCabe	G. Darden
Lewis B. Myers	George Hobbs
Benjamin Jones	Thomas Shaw
B. F. Latham	Samuel Smallwood

The minutes of the first communication record an agreement made with Brother William T. Pratt, "who holds the Lodge House in possession for the sum of \$196.00, to pay him this amount and he would return the property to Orr Lodge," \$120.00 being subscribed at that time. The minutes of December 11, 1838 state that Brother Pratt had been paid the \$196.00, and that deed was made to the Secretary, Thomas Shaw, "the same to be conveyed to the lodge as soon as an act of incorporation is granted to the lodge from the General Assembly so that they may hold the same lawfully." Brother J. O'K. Williams being requested to attend to this matter for the lodge. This deed was never recorded in the records of Beaufort County and there is no record of Thomas Shaw making a deed to the lodge. In the early 1890's questions arose as to the title to the lodge property. Following a friendly suit a deed was executed to Brother Seth Bridgeman, Master and his successors in office by "William A. Blount and wife Mary W. Blount, and Nancy H. Branch, as heirs of William Orr, who had conveyed Lot 48, Bonner's old part to the Lodge," but there is no record of this in the Records of Beaufort County.

The business of the Lodge was conducted in an Entered Apprentice Lodge until July 2, 1850, when the change was made conducting all the business in a Master Masons Lodge.

The most valuable relic in the Lodge is a Bible, on which is written "Washington Mark Masters Lodge, 1811." It was used during the early days when the Mark Master's degree was worked in Symbolic Lodges.

Parts of the first set of jewels bought in 1840 are still in the possession of the Lodge and were used until about twenty years ago. The Tyler's sword was presented to the Lodge December 2, 1845 by John S. Hawks from the family of its former owner, J. O'K. Williams, and it is still in use. The Rough and Perfect Ashlers were presented by Brother Claypote on October 6, 1869. The oldest Trowel is one presented by Brother Max Oetteger on April 2, 1873 prior to his returning to his old home in Germany.

Masonry in Washington through the individual member has always promoted the causes of Religion and Education. The Lodge Hall has been used by different denominations for religious services from time to time. The North Carolina Methodist Conference met in the hall on November 4, 1845. The building was used continuously for school purposes until about thirty years ago, or just after the beginning of the public school system in Washington.

Orr Lodge appointed its first Orphanage Committee on January 7, 1874 for what was then St. John's Orphanage at Oxford, receiving the first visit from the singing class in 1875 and in 1878 Lodge voted to instruct its Representative to Grand Lodge to work for the continuation of the Orphanage.

Masonry in Washington has had a long and honorable record. The old members built strongly and wisely and that which has been handed down to us should be jealously guarded and transmitted to our posterity.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Charles Otis Jordan, Master

Millard F. McKeel, Jr., P. M.

Guy C. Harding, P. M.

Fenner T. Paul, P. M.

John S. Benner, P. M.



